

Yashodharman

Yashodharman (IAST: *Yaśodharman*) was a ruler of Malwa, in central India, during the early part of the 6th century. He belonged to the Aulikara dynasty.^[1] He may have been the son and successor of the other notable Aulikara king, Prakashadharma.

Yashodharman



The defeat of the Alchon Huns under Mihirakula by King Yashodharman at Sondani in 528 CE.

Maharaja of Malwa

Religion Hindu

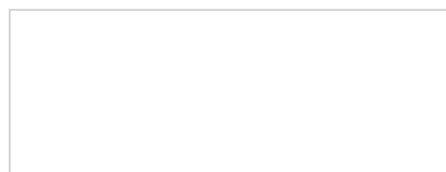
History

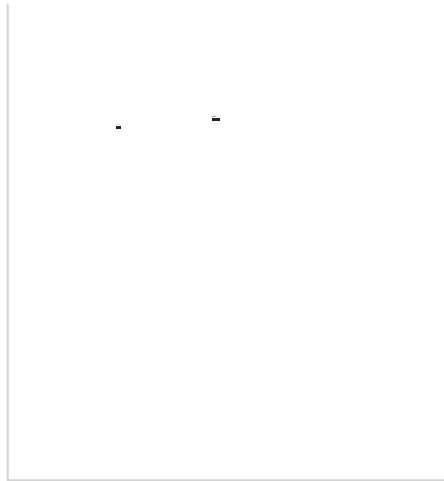
Towards the end of the 5th century, India came under attack from the Hunas.

Yashodharman and possibly the Gupta emperor, Narasimhagupta, defeated a *Huna* army and their ruler Mihirakula in 528 CE and drove them out of India.

Three inscriptions of Yasodharman have been found in Mandsaur. One of these, the Mandsaur stone inscription of Yashodharman-Vishnuvardhana is of samvat 589 (532 AD).

Mandsaur stone inscription of Yashodharman- Vishnuvardhana (532 CE)





The 532 CE Mandsaur stone inscription of

Yashodharman-Vishnuvardhana mentions victorious campaigns against northern kings (probably referring to the victory against the Alchon Huns at Sondani), and against "mighty kings of the east", including a campaign across the Vindhya range.

The Mandsaur stone inscription of Yashodharman-Vishnuvardhana was written in 532 CE, and records the construction of a well by a person named Daksha in Dashapura (modern Mandsaur,

also often spelled Mandasor), during the rule of Yashodharman.^[2] The inscription mentions the victories of local ruler Yasodharman (and possibly Chalukya ruler Vishnuvardhana) over Northern and Eastern kingdoms. These kingdoms are not further specified, but it is known that Yashodharman occupied most of the territories of the Alchon Huns or Hunas to the north, and the most of the territories of the Gupta Empire to the east following his victories.^{[3][4]} Only one more Gupta inscription is known after that date, a land grant in the area of Kotivarsha (Bangarh in West Bengal) by the last Gupta emperor Vishnugupta.^[4] The victory against the

Alchons Huns is also described in the
Mandsaur pillar inscription of
Yashodharman.^[2]

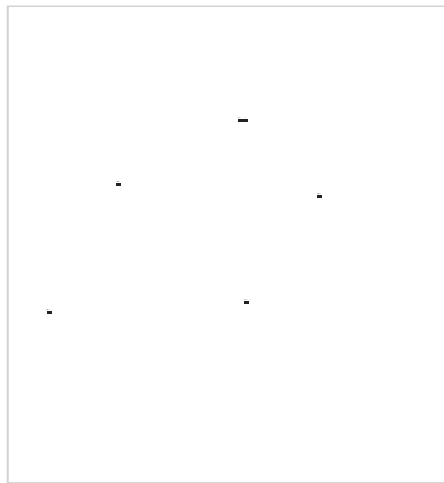
"(L. 5.)— And, again, victorious over the earth is this same king of men, the glorious Vishnuvardhana, the conqueror in war; by whom his own famous lineage, which has the Aulikara-crest, has been brought to a state of dignity that is ever higher and higher. By him, having brought into subjection, with peaceful

overtures and by war, the mighty kings of the east and many (kings) of the north, this second name of "Supreme King of Kings and Supreme Lord", pleasing in the world (but) difficult of attainment, is carried on high."

— Mandsaur stone inscription of Yashodharman and Vishnuvardhana^[5]

Mandsaur pillar inscription of Yashodharman

Victory pillar of Yashodharman at Sondani, Mandsaur.



In the Mandsaur pillar inscription, Yashodharman claims he now controls the territory from the neighbourhood of Lauhitya (Brahmaputra River) to the "Western Ocean" (Western Indian Ocean), and from the Himalayas to mountain Mahendra. He also claims he defeated the Hunas at Sondani.^[6]

Twin monolithic pillars at Sondani in Mandsaur District were erected by Yasodharman as a record of his victory.^{[7][8]} In a part of the Sondani inscription, Yasodharman thus praises himself for having defeated king Mihirakula:^[9]

"He (Yasodharman) to whose two feet respect was paid, with complimentary presents of the flowers from the lock of hair on the top of (his) head, by even that (famous) king Mihirakula, whose

*forehead was pained through
being bent low down by the
strength of (his) arm in (the act
of compelling) obeisance"*

— Mandsaur pillar inscription of
Yashodharman^[10]

Territory

In Line 5 of the Mandsaur pillar inscription, Yashodharman claims he vanquished his enemies and now controls the territory from the neighbourhood of the (river) Lauhitya (Brahmaputra River) to the "Western Ocean" (Western Indian Ocean),

and from the Himalayas to mountain Mahendra.^{[11][12]}

Yashodharman thus conquered vast territories from the Hunas and the Guptas,^[13] although his short-lived empire would ultimately disintegrate between 530-540 CE.^[12]

References

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9. *Coin Cabinet of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna* [2]

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- [Mandasor Pillar Inscription of Yashodharman](#)

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